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8 January 1958

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee

SUBJECT : Establishment of a Communications Committee

REFERENCE : IAC-M-321, 17 December 1957, Item 1

1. Effective communications are vital to the adequate discharge of primary responsibilities of the U. S. intelligence community. All members of the IAC and USCIB maintain their own communications arrangements, although several of them control no communications facilities of their own, and all are dependent on continuing cooperation with other members of the intelligence community to assure themselves of essential communications support. Nevertheless there is no permanent body for considering inter-agency communications problems, or for making recommendations to the IAC and/or USCIB as to current and anticipated intelligence requirements for communications and as to communications policies, facilities and operational arrangements needed to meet these requirements.

2. The IAC's Warning Systems Survey Committee is intensively studying the requirements for and availability of warnings intelligence with present communications facilities, but is in no position to consider major changes that might be desirable in existing communications facilities and arrangements. The USCIB Ad Hoc Committee of communications experts has made important progress in studying and making recommendations to USCIB related to the problem of transmission of early-warning and other critical intelligence information, but has been concerned primarily with technical and organization aspects of communications. Its responsibilities are limited to advising USCIB in connection with a particular recommendation of the President's Board of Consultants relative to early-warning communications. Its study and recommendations have necessarily had to be based on assumptions as to requirements for early-warning intelligence which fall within the area of competence of the IAC - and beyond that of USCIB and its specialists, who are primarily concerned with technical and organizational aspects of communications facilities and operations.

3. This USCIB Ad Hoc Committee already includes technical representation from all members of the intelligence community that actually control and operate communications facilities. Such a body might appropriately serve as the nucleus for an expanded joint committee to consider all aspects of communications problems and to recommend to the IAC and USCIB the appropriate composition and terms of reference of a permanent joint committee in this field.

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4. Recommendation:

a. That the IAC approve in principle the establishment of a joint Communications Committee to be responsive to both the IAC and to USCIB.

b. That the IAC request USCIB to assign its Ad Hoc Committee responsibility for developing appropriate terms of reference for a permanent, joint, communications committee; and that the IAC designate, or otherwise agree to make available to such a joint committee, additional representatives individually knowledgeable of intelligence requirements for communications support.



General, USA (Ret)
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